

# MEMO MINEE NATION NEWS



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## Surprise catch!



L. Tucker-May/MNN

Richard James shows off his unexpected catch, the muskie weighed in at 35 lbs. and measured 50 in. James and his brother Marlin were out fishing on Sunday, April 13th at Big Eddy Falls when Richard observed the fish jumping out of the water and land on a rock. Before the fish could slide off the rock and back into the Wolf River, Richard tackled it and proceeded to wrestle it to shore, determined not to let this catch get away. With the assistance of Marlin, Richard succeeded in getting his fish, and plans to have it mounted for memories of his fishing adventure.

## Menominee celebrates return of the sturgeon



L. Tucker-May/MNN

Area students help to place 1 of 15 sturgeon into Chickney Creek, a new tradition that has taken place by the Menominee's since the dams blocked the natural spawning and migration of the Lake Sturgeon in the early 1900's.

Llona Tucker-May  
Menominee Nation News

On Tuesday, April 15th approximately 50 community members gathered together to observe the placing of 15 Lake Sturgeon into Chickney Creek.

This tradition has been brought about as a way for the Menominee people to continue their tradition of celebrating the return of the sturgeon to the reservation. For many years the ceremony was stopped due to the dams that were erected along several areas of the Wolf River, making it impossible for the fish to return to their natural breeding grounds.

Having sturgeon brought in every

year has taken place for the past 10 years, with the assistance of Wisconsin DNR. Letting area students help with delivering the fish into the river has helped them to understand the importance of the celebration and to help continue the tradition for years to come.

The Menominee High School Drum provided an honor song for the event and elder Lillian Wausejeun Nelson gave the blessing and prayer.

Afterwards community members placed tobacco into the river to give thanks for the return of the fish.

This event takes place annually and is followed by a feast, where the fish are prepared and cooked for the Menominee

community and followed by a traditional powwow. This years powwow was held on Saturday, April 19th, at the Menominee Tribal School in Neopit. Grand Entry times were 1pm and 7 pm. Head dancers were Dana Warrington and Jennifer Gauthier, while host drum was Jr. Dead Grass Society.

Events such as Honoring of Menominee Elder, Sturgeon Ceremonial Offering, Ceremonial Dances and giveaways will be held throughout the powwow.

Due to deadlines, the powwow will be printed in the May 5th issue of *Menominee Nation News*.

## Easter Bunny visits Neopit Headstart Program



C. Caldwell/MNN

The Easter Bunny paid a visit to the Neopit Headstart class on Wednesday, April 16, 2003. Each child received a hug and an Easter egg full of surprises. Shown here is the Easter Bunny hugging each child in M. Jolene and Ms. Sharon's class.

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